

# THE BOURBON NEWS.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY IN THE YEAR.

PARIS, KENTUCKY, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1908.

VOLUME XXVIII.

## A Communication From Sidney G. Clay.

To the Democrats of Bourbon county:

I feel it my duty to myself, as well as to the good Democrats before whom I have been laying my claims as a candidate for the Legislature, to make this statement, especially so since my good friend and worthy opponent, Mr. Collins, for whom individually I have the kindest words and the kindest feelings, has positively denied what I have said and covered his retreat by attacking my political record. I want to do no man an injustice and desire no vote secured by misrepresentation or gained by exciting unfair prejudice.

I told some of my Democratic friends that it was reported that Mr. Collins voted against Mr. Bryan in 1896; I told others that it was reported that he voted against Mr. Goebel in 1899. I was handed the following article which I would like Mr. Collins to explain. It was clipped from the Paris Gazette—a paper edited by Judge Harmon Stitt—September 14th, 1899, nearly ten years ago, by a Democrat so staunch in his Democracy that he has guarded it for these many years for fear that some of the members of this club would ask for offices at the hands of the Democrats of Bourbon county, whom they betrayed in 1899.

I will first ask Mr. Collins if he did vote against Mr. Goebel? If his answer is in the negative—as no doubt it will be—why should he have permitted his name to appear, unchallenged, as violently opposed to his party nominee? Would it not have been better and truer and more honest to have gone to the polls and voted as he talked and thought, and was quoted, than to use his influence one way, allowing his name to appear in the public press as a member of an anti-Goebel Club, branding Mr. Goebel, the nominee of his own party—than whom no truer or nobler Democrat ever lived—as “THE BIGGEST LIAR AND MOST CONSUMMATE SCOUNDREL THAT EVER STUMPED THE STATE,” and then go to the polls where no one could see his ballot, when his vote only counted as one, and cast it for Mr. Goebel, in an Australian voting booth, protected from the gaze of his party adherents and the vigilance of all good Democrats, alone for the injury done the nominee of his party in his race for Governor, by his public utterances against him? Does it make him a better Democrat?

This article has been written these ten years; read and discussed at the time and not a denial or a protestation until now, when an office is sought. There was no incentive at the time to distort the facts or prevent the truth, as no member of this so-called Brown Club of North Middletown, “fifty good and true men,” was an aspirant for an office. He denies that he voted against Mr. Bryan in 1896. If his Democracy was so questionable and his party affiliation so lukewarm in 1899, is it not reasonable to suppose that in 1896 he was a Gold-bug as he was a Brown-bug in 1899?

He accuses me of voting for Judge Howard for County Judge in 1894, thereby contributing to the defeat of Judge Mann, and his supporters and friends have circulated this malicious falsehood from one end of the county to the other. I heard this last week and immediately wrote to Lexington, Virginia, where I attended college, for the affidavit appearing below. I was not of age at the time mentioned, nor was I in the State. I have the original of both the Gazette clipping and the affidavit referred to, which I will be glad to show to anyone desiring to see them. I became of age November 24, 1894, and cast my first vote in the good old precinct of Clintonville—where I was born and reared—for William Jennings Bryan, in 1896, and have voted the Democratic ticket ever since, keeping clean and untarnished a political record which I have faithfully and jealously guarded since by majority. I tender this to the good people of Bourbon county to substantiate all that I have said to them, as above all things, I want their confidence and good will.

Respectfully,  
SIDNEY G. CLAY.

Oct. 26, 1908.

Editor Gazette:

The anti-Goebel men of the North Middletown precinct feel proud of the leadership of so grand a man and staunch a Democrat as John Young Brown. They are anxious to give publicity to the fact that they are opposed to Goebel and his contemptible methods. They want it known that they will not calmly submit to being deprived of the time honored right of selecting their own precinct committeemen, nor will they without protest, see the county Judges of this State no longer allowed to appoint the election officers. Whatever others may say, the staunchest and most intelligent citizens of this, the North Middletown precinct, will not be a party to any movement, that tends to concentrate the localized power within the hands of three men, no matter though they may be the purest and fairest men in Kentucky. The brave stand you have taken with The Gazette will make you many friends. In these days of cringing to politicians for the sake of office, and man who has courage enough and sufficient independence to announce to the world, that, no matter what happens to him, he will lift his voice and use his influence against the political enslavement of his fellowmen is really and truly, an inspiration. The boldness and dash of The Gazette is but the embodied thought and spirit of its editor. Even its enemies must admire it, for it has never been known to endorse any principle or idea because it was popular. I could send you the names of fifty Democrats in this vicinity who will not vote for Goebel. The following men are well known throughout the county as influential men in this community, who do not object to having their names pub-

lished, and are not afraid of the office-holders or job-lot politicians pulling the clothes off of them in a spasmodic and hysterical effort to get them to vote for the biggest liar and most consummate scoundrel that ever stumped this State. Nearly everyone in this county knows John I. Fisher, J. T. Collins, J. W. Woodward, Wm. Jones, Prof. M. G. Thompson, Thomas J. Evans, Watson Gay, Charlton Lowe, John W. Skillman, Jr., Albert Trimble, Hodge Gay, Allie Jones, John J. Redmon. We intend to organize a Brown Club and will start in with thirty-nine charter members and by November will enroll fifty “good men and true.” We have several times sent our names to the Goebelized papers of this county but they have refused to publish them. Long life to The Gazette, the only paper in the county that is advocating True Democracy and is edited by a man that cannot be controlled by professional politicians.

A TRUE DEMOCRAT.

The undersigned, Jno. L. Campbell, Secretary and Treasurer of Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, hereby certifies, that the matriculation book of Washington & Lee University for the session 1894-5, shows that Sidney Green Clay matriculated as a student at said University, at the opening of said session, his matriculation number being 130, the said session having been opened on the 13th day of September 1894, and Mr. Clay having matriculated on the 15th day of September; that Mr. Clay gave as his age at the time he matriculated 20, his father's name as Sidney P. Clay and the postoffice address of himself and his father as Lexington, Ky. The records of said University further show that Mr. Clay stood all three of the examinations during said session of 1894-5.

Given under my hand this 22nd day of October 1908.  
JOHN L. CAMPBELL,  
Secretary and Treasurer of Washington & Lee University.  
Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned this 22nd day of October 1908, by John L. Campbell, Secretary and Treasurer of Washington & Lee University.

FRANK MOORE,  
Notary Public of Rockbridge County, Virginia.  
My Commission as Notary Public will expire Feb. 14, 1910.  
Seal.  
Under the laws of Virginia there is no tax on this seal.

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